SUBJECTS.

the destitute beggars suffering from incurable diseases. He said that this would be a great boon to both the poor people and also to the public generally, who had all other conveniences such as Hospitals and Vydiasalas, Leper and Lunatic Asylums, Maternity Hospitals and Opthalmic Hospitals.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

51. Measures for the prevention of the serious loss of life on account of cholera.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that the epidemic of cholera was more or less a regular visitor in South Travancore during the months of October, November and December every year. In each season, several persons were prematurely cut off, the number of victims during the closing months of 1910 having risen to an appalling figure. In the Agastiswaram taluk alone, the population was reduced by more than 2,000 persons during that dreadful season. The question then was whether this grave and continued decimation of the population should not be checked. Of course, when the disease broke out, the Government adopted certain measures for the relief of the afflicted. But this was of very little permanent consequence. It was necessary that those measures should be supplemented by steps calculated to *prevent* the inroads of the epidemic in the years to come. A thorough investigation into the matter by competent persons was therefore of the utmost importance and urgency. In these circumstances, the Member pleaded for the appointment, at an early date, of a carefully constituted Commission to make an exhaustive local investigation into the conditions and circumstances of the periodical sweeping away of precious human lives.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

52. The insanitary condition of the Shencotta town and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar, B. A. (Member, Shencotta Taluk) said that the four essential requisites of good sanitation, *viz.*, pure air to breathe, good water to drink, wholesome food to eat, and comfortable houses to live in, were all sadly lacking in Shencotta. The air of the town was contaminated by the foul odours emanating from a filthy tank, *viz.*, the *Perumalkulam*, situated in the very heart of the town. The tank was used as a common latrine by the people, and the rubbish of the town was also thrown into it. The local English School being situated close to the tank, the health of the boys was liable to be injuriously affected. During the rainy season, the accumulated filthy matter in the tank was carried to the river, the water of which was used by the people for drinking and bathing purposes. Owing to the unhappy situation of the tank, fever and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

other diseases were incessantly raging in the town, and when cholera broke out, the people living close to the tank contracted it first and fell victims to it. The Member therefore suggested that the tank might be converted into a *Teppakulam*, with roads running all round it. But as it would be a costly affair and the remedy would be only partial, he requested that the tank-bed, together with the lands which it irrigated, about 10 acres in extent, might be sold to the people, who would willingly buy them, so that the town, which was already thickly populated, might with great advantage be extended up to the English School and the present congestion removed.

The river water was unfit for drinking purposes, and the few wells in the town were mostly dry during the hot weather. The inhabitants then used the foul water collected in small ditches here and there on the bed of the river. The Member said that a supply of good drinking-water could be easily obtained throughout the year, if a few thousand rupees were spent upon improving some of the springs in the vicinity of the town, such as the *Thazhapadi* spring. He added that the inhabitants would gladly contribute a fair portion of the expenditure for any scheme, and he requested the Government to issue orders for the investigation of the feasibility of a successful drinking-water supply scheme for Shencotta.

With regard to the food supply, there was no supervision or control worth mentioning, and unwholesome articles of food were sometimes sold in the bazaars and markets. The town was thickly populated, considering that, within the small area, more than 3,000 houses were huddled together, with little or no premises, and owing to the absence of a regular scavenging system, the sanitation was considerably affected. And since the advent of the Railway, large numbers of people, halting in the town on their way to and from Courtallam, contributed to make the sanitation still worse. As the want of a Sirkar *Satrom* in the town was keenly felt, the Member said that it would be a great boon to the people if the Government would be pleased to construct a *Satrom*, as that would tend to considerably improve the sanitary condition of the locality. The streets of the town were not provided with lights, and that gave ample scope to the people for committing nuisance during night. In the opinion of the Member, it was high time for the Government to bring Shencotta under the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, as the people were sufficiently advanced for such self-government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

as prevailed in the neighbouring taluks of the Tinnevelly District.

Dewan's reply.—The Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to report on the matters mentioned by the Member.

53. Sanitation of the town of Trivandrum and suggestions for its improvement.

Mr. F. P. Fernandez (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that he had spent 33 years of his life in Trivandrum and 38 years in the Government service as a member of the Medical Department. During that time he had noticed vast improvements in almost all Departments of the State, but the change for the better noted in the sanitation of the Trivandrum town, excepting the attempts at house-scavenging, was *nil*. It was worse now than what it was 50 years ago, owing to the increased population which numbered 60,000 souls. The subject being in his line, he wished to bring before the Assembly a few of the very urgent sanitary needs that required immediate attention for the well-being of the citizens. Though one could not expect all the up-to-date improvements in sanitation, the Member hoped that some of the improvements to be proposed by him would meet with the approval of the Government.

The sanitary work of the town could not, like that of many other Departments, be expected to pay its way at the present stage of its growth. A sum of Rs. 6,000 was realised from house-tax, but this amount, together with what was annually allotted by the Government, was found quite inadequate to meet the pressing increased needs. The Government grant, which ranged from Rs. 39,000 to Rs. 42,000 per annum prior to 1083, was suddenly curtailed since 1084 to Rs. 25,000. Had the Government given sufficient time to the Committee for raising funds under Section 86 of Regulation III of 1076 and sanctioned the proposals of the Committee to levy taxes contemplated under that Regulation as per the Committee's letter No. 742, dated 18th June 1909, to meet the requirements of proper sanitation, the town would not have suffered as at present. To keep within the reduced allotment, the Conservancy staff had to be reduced by one-half, and this, to a great extent, was responsible for the present insanitary condition of the town.

Perfect sanitation, the Member said, fell under three groups, *viz.*, (1) scavenging and general sanitation, (2) provision for protected and abundant water supply, and (3) drainage.

As regards scavenging, the Member regretted that there was not a single public latrine or urinal in the

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